

Page 1, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following heading:

C3

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--;

Page 1, replace the paragraph beginning on line 13 as follows:

OH

--According to an alternative a tray is provided consisting of an essentially open container having a base surface from which a number of spikes or nails protrude onto which the bulbs concerned are pushed. There are thus no boundaries between the bulbs. Water is transported continuously or intermittently through a container of this type, as a result of which the problem of slime formation, stench and rotting is eliminated. The bulbs are arranged freely adjoining one another and it has been found that as a result of appreciable root formation and spread, the bulbs can no longer be removed as individual items because the roots of adjacent bulbous plants become appreciably intertwined. This latter system is used in particular for long-term cultivation, for example ten weeks. The root development during such a long period can be appreciable. It is essential that the pins do not pierce through the root base because this causes irreparable damage to the plant. In practice it has been found that this does occur in particular cases.--.

Page 2, before line 1, insert the following heading:  
--SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--;

Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 6 as follows:

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C5  
--This aim is achieved with a plant tray as described above, and wherein each opening at the bottom is delimited by a cutting edge acting in the direction the plant is removed from the accommodation. Because the accommodations terminate in an opening at the bottom, a system for the supply and removal of water which is common to the various accommodations can be implemented beneath the tray, as a result of which the production of slime is no longer to be feared. Certainly in the case of long cultivation, there will be appreciable root formation and the roots of adjacent plants may grow into one another. Because of the presence of a cutting edge, when the bulb is withdrawn from the accommodations the soft root material is automatically cut free and no adjacent bulbous plants are removed at the same time.--;

[Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 14 as follows:]

--Stable positioning of the bulbous plants in the accommodations can be promoted by fitting clamping means. A wide variety of types of clamping means are proposed in the prior art. According to an advantageous embodiment of the invention, the clamping means, however, consist of plates which preferably extend perpendicularly to the periphery of the accommodations and delimit a tapered opening for such a bulbous plant. That is to

say, the bulbous plant can be pushed firmly into the clamping means. No damage to the bulbs during further growth has been observed, such as has been found in the case of systems with which the roots are skewered on pins and the like. Fixing of the bulbs is facilitated if such plates are provided with a sharp cutting edge. It is true that there is local cutting into the coat of the bulb as a result, but in general no damage to the base of the bulb takes place. The consequences of damage to the coat are less than those of damage to the base of the bulb. In cases where damage does have an adverse effect, the edges of the plates may be chamfered. Moreover, it is possible to fix the plates only at the top or bottom of the tray, as a result of which the plates are able to move resiliently to and fro. Moreover, means can be fitted to determine the depth at which the bulbs have to be introduced over the plates, so that all bulbs are at the same height.--;

[Page 2, replace the paragraph beginning on line 30 and bridging pages 2 and 3 as follows:]

--According to a further advantageous embodiment of the invention, the accommodations are made hexagonal and arranged in a honeycomb pattern. It has been found that optimum utilization of the surface area of the tray is obtained in this way. With an embodiment of this type the clamping plates preferably extend from one or more of the corners of the hexagon.--.

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